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Subject: FW: From E&E Daily -- CLIMATE: Ebell offers energy and environment agenda to next Congress

Attachments: CEI Agenda for Congress 2017_0.pdf

Everyone should check out page 87 of the attached document, as it relates to IRIS.



CLIMATE

Ebell offers energy and environment agenda to next Congress

Hannah Hess, E&E News reporter

Published: Thursday, December 8, 2016

Senate leaders would schedule a ratification vote on the Paris climate agreement to set the stage for withdrawal from the deal if they follow an agenda released today by the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

Other recommendations include defunding the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and amending the Clean Air Act to clarify that it never delegated to U.S. EPA the authority to make climate policy.

The 25-page energy and environment portion of the free-market think tank's "pro-growth" **proposal** for the 115th Congress cites longtime climate change skeptic Myron Ebell, whom President-elect Donald Trump tapped to lead his EPA transition team, as the chief expert behind the plan.

However, recent analysis suggests it would be tricky for Trump or Republicans on Capitol Hill to follow all of Ebell's advice.

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) maintains the Paris Agreement is an executive agreement. Because it entered into force on Nov. 4, 2016, Trump would not have the right to withdraw from the deal until Nov. 4, 2019, under Article 28 of the agreement.

Congressional researchers noted this week that any party that withdraws from the UNFCCC would also be considered to have withdrawn from the Paris Agreement, under the same clause. The fact that the UNFCCC was approved by the Senate "makes the withdrawal procedure under domestic law less straightforward," CRS stated, and potentially subject to a legal challenge if Trump acts unilaterally.

Trump would likely need the approval of two-thirds of the Senate to do so, according to CRS.

The think tank also encourages lawmakers to reject legislation intended to enact a carbon tax, saying it is "a market-rigging policy, not a free market one."

CEI is supportive of Republican attempts to prohibit agencies from using the social cost of carbon in rulemaking. Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.) this week introduced a bill that would bar the Department of Energy and EPA from using the government's social cost of carbon, methane, nitrous oxide or any other greenhouse gas in any action (*E&E News PM*, Dec. 7).

The report says climate change mitigation policies "pose serious risks to American prosperity, competitiveness, and living standards."

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